AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

sending a message from a client to a server, the message to establish a secure

connection;

intercepting the ~~data~~ message at a security system associated with the server, the

security system to perform authentication functions, wherein the

performing of the authentication functions includes selecting an

appropriate security format conversion; and

establishing ~~a~~ the secure connection ~~if proper authentications~~ once the

authentication functions are ~~performed~~ completed.

2.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~proper authentications~~

~~comprise~~ performing of the authentication functions further comprises

determining ~~if the server is authentic~~ authentication of the server if the client has

requested the server authentication.

3.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the ~~proper authentications~~

~~additionally comprise~~ performing of the authentication functions further

comprises determining ~~if the client is authentic~~ authentication of the client if the

server has requested the client authentication.

4.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~said proper authentications~~

the performing of the authentication functions further comprises ~~comprise~~

validating digital certificates.

5.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~additionally~~ further comprising

decrypting the message if the message is encrypted.

6.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~performing of the~~ authentication functions ~~further comprise~~ comprises:

the server requesting authentication from the client;

receiving a client certificate from the client; and

determining if the client is authentic~~, said determining occurring~~ at the security system on behalf of the server.

Claims 7-18 (Cancelled)

19.   (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

~~one or more servers~~ a server to exchange data with ~~clients~~ a client; and

a security system associated with the ~~one or more servers~~ server, the security system to[[:]]

~~support authentication functions for authenticating the~~ authenticate an identity of ~~the one or more servers;~~ the server, ~~and~~

authenticate ~~the identity of clients~~ an identity of the client requesting a secure connection with the ~~one or more servers.~~ server, wherein the authentication of the identity of the client includes sending a message from the client to the server, the message to establish the secure connection,

intercepting the message to perform authentication functions including selecting an appropriate security format conversion, and

establishing the secure connection once the authentication functions are completed.

20.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ the authentication functions ~~for authenticating the identity of the one or more servers comprises~~

comprise:

requesting a server ~~certificates~~ certificate from a certificate authority; and

in response to ~~a~~ the client requesting authentication from ~~one of the one or more~~

~~servers~~ the server, sending a server certificate to the client.

21.　(Currently Amended) The system of claim 19, wherein ~~said~~ the authenticating of

the identity of ~~clients~~ the client ~~requesting a secure connection with the one or~~

~~more servers~~ comprises:

updating a certificate revocation list (CRL);

receiving a client certificate from ~~a~~ the client requesting ~~a~~ the secure connection

with ~~a given one of the one or more servers~~ server associated with the

security system;

determining if the client certificate is on the CRL; and

if the client certificate is on the CRL, ~~then~~ denying the client access to the ~~given~~

server.

Claims 22-25 (Cancelled)

26.　(Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data

representing ~~sequences~~ sets of instructions, ~~the sequences of instructions~~ which,

when executed by a ~~processor~~ machine, cause the ~~processor~~ machine to ~~perform~~

~~the following~~:

~~receive~~ send a message from a client to a server, the message to establish a secure

connection;

intercept the ~~data~~ message at a security system associated with the server, the

security system to perform authentication functions, wherein the

performing of the authentication functions include selecting an appropriate

security formate conversion; and

establish ~~a~~ the secure connection ~~if proper authentications~~ once the authentication

functions are ~~performed~~ completed.

27. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the

~~proper authentications comprise~~ performing of the authentication functions further

comprises determining ~~if the server is authentic~~ authentication of server if the

client has requested the server authentication.

28. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the

message comprises a client certificate to validate ~~the~~ an identity of the client, and

~~said~~ the performing of the ~~proper authentications~~ authentication functions further

comprises validating the client certificate.

29. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 26, wherein the

performing of the authentication functions ~~comprise~~ further comprises:

the ~~security system~~ server requesting authentication from the client ~~on behalf of~~

~~the server~~;

receiving ~~a~~ the client certificate from the client; and

determining if the client is authentic, ~~said determining occurring~~ at the security

system on behalf of the server.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

~~at least one~~ a processor; and

a machine-readable medium having instructions encoded thereon, which when

executed by the processor, ~~are capable of directing~~ cause the processor to:

~~receive~~ send a message from a client to a server, the message to establish a

secure connection;

intercept the ~~data~~ message at a security system associated with the server

to perform authentication functions; and

establish a secure connection if proper authentications are performed.

31.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the ~~proper~~

~~authentications comprise~~ performing of the authentication functions further

comprises determining ~~if~~ authentication of the server ~~is authentic~~ if the client has

requested the server authentication.

32.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the message comprises

a client certificate to validate ~~the~~ an identity of the client, and ~~said~~ performing of

the ~~proper authentications~~ authentication function further comprises validating the

client certificate.